

Cooper set for debut at Hendon

WYCOMBE Wanderers were last night (Monday) rushing through the clearance papers of Walton and Hersham's international full back Mick Cooper, who could well make his debut for the Blues against his former club Hendon tonight at Claremont Road (writes **Stuart Earp**).

Cooper, 26, spent eight seasons with Hendon before going to Walton in the close season. He has won four England Amateur caps but for much of last year he was out of football with a cartilage operation.

This term he has played 12 times for Walton but missed the F.A. Cup, third qualifying victory against Wanderers again with an injury problem.

But as one player joined Wycombe, so another left the club in Paul Birdseye, a young full back in and out of the team this season. Paul is expected to join local Athenian League, Premier Division club Maidenhead United. He joined the club two years ago from Loughborough College and had previously played for the U.A.U., Wor-

cester F.A. and F.A. Amateur XI's.

This season he had an unhappy time at full back and struggled to find his best form, although holding down a regular place for eight matches.

Rob Williams is likely to be out of football for at least ten days following a four inch gash just above the knee. He received the injury after a clash with Leatherhead's John Cooper on Saturday. He will miss Saturday's visit to Dulwich and next Tuesday's home match against Walton and Hersham.

Other players who are only 50-50 for tonight are Tony Horseman, still suffering from a knee injury, and Keith Jameson who received a bad knock again from Cooper on Saturday.

Gerry Olson, dropped in favour of Williams, seems set to return to the back four, while Mick Holifield could move into the forwards if

Horseman is unable to play. John Maskell may also come back into the side.

Many feel Hendon have already got the League championship sewn up at Claremont Road, this season and they have yet to be beaten. They have dropped only three points with draws against Bishop's Stortford, Hitchin and St. Albans.

They have scored 45 goals and conceded just seven while their nearest rivals at the top of the table — Walton and Hersham — will still be five points behind if they win their three games in hand.

But while people think the championship is settled, others will remember the brilliant game at Loakes Park on September 5, when Hendon won 1-0.

There are a few changes in the Hendon side that won at Loakes Park. Pudney returned to the club after a spell with Hornchurch and Wilsonham

and Koller have also been playing for the first team in recent weeks. John Connell has left in favour of the Southern Leaguers Wealdstone.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
(Top places)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hendon	20	17	3	0	45	7	37
W'stow A	21	11	7	3	35	16	29
Walton & H	17	12	2	3	24	9	26
Enfield	19	10	5	4	43	22	25
Wycombe W	18	11	2	5	32	13	24